

cultivating COMMUNITY

Founded in September, the Bartram Garden Club serves Nassau County by sharing its love of gardening through classes, community projects, and environmental awareness.

BY KAREN MILLER • PHOTOS BY MARC WILLIAMS

In early 2016, Beverly Williams and Carolyn Stevens decided that Amelia Island and greater Nassau County needed a state garden club to serve its residents. Williams, a Fernandina Beach resident, was already a member of a federated garden club in Jacksonville, as well as a flower show judge.

“Like myself, many residents were active in a federated club before moving here from another state,” says Williams. “Most of us were learning how to navigate Florida’s unique climate and soil. Others wanted to continue their floral design studies.” She and Stevens, District IV Director of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (FFGC), hoped to promote service projects and community building around Nassau County through floral design, gardening, and environmental studies.

The Bartram Garden Club was formed in September 2016, beginning with 26 charter members. It is so named to honor the legacy of Colonial naturalist William Bartram, who set foot in Florida at Amelia Island in 1774. “We felt it was appropriate to acknowledge the role he played in Northeast Florida’s history,” says Williams. “Bartram discovered many plants and animals here unknown to science at that time.” In total, 21 Bartram



Club officers from left; Beverly Williams, president; Kathleen Lunman, Vice President; Reha London, Treasurer; Carolyn Stevens, FFGC District Director. Not pictured: Kathy Reily, Secretary. First club meeting, September 2016.

Trail markers have been dedicated at various sites in Florida by state garden clubs. One marker stands at the riverfront in downtown Fernandina Beach.

“Service to the community is an important hallmark of the club,” says Stevens. “Members place a floral design on a rotating basis in the foyer of the Fernandina library, serve on the Design Council of Fernandina Main Street, and lead garden therapy programs at a local assisted living facility. One member is actively identifying heritage trees within the City of Fernandina Beach. The club hopes to soon sponsor National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) ‘Design Study Units 1-6,’ a series of basic design workshops taught by FFGC instructors, which will be offered to club members and open to the general public.”

The Bartram Garden Club meetings are open to all and cover a wide variety of topics; their membership represents many types of gardening interests and skill levels. Programs address the various

continued on page 50.



Members Alice Caldwell and Claudia Burningham led a garden therapy program recently at Osprey Village, Amelia Island.



*Floral Design demonstration by Elli Steiger,
FFGC master judge*

Garden from page 37.

needs of members as well as the latest trends in gardening and landscape design, while consideration is always given to supporting environmental responsibility.

Studying floral design art is one of the three basic pillars of a well-balanced garden club, keeping the focus on plant material—how to grow it, use it, and display it. The club's design studies aim to help members creatively use fresh and/or dried plant material in an artistic and functional manner. The club also encourages members and the general public to enroll in garden study courses sponsored by FFGC and NGC.

Through National Garden Clubs, the club provides a broad spectrum of gardening-related studies for NGC credit. Gardening Studies, Landscape Design, and Environmental Studies are three separate series of courses offered to affiliate members.

The Bartram Garden Club currently meets at the Fernandina branch of the Nassau County Public Library the second Thursday of the month, September through May, beginning at 10 a.m. Programs alternate between design, horticulture, and environmental topics. During every meeting club members contribute pocket change which, when it totals \$68, will be sent to the Forest Service and used to plant 350 pine seedlings.

Guests and prospective members are always welcome. For more information about the organization and upcoming meetings, visit the club's website at www.bartramgardenclub.org.



APRIL CHECKLIST

Citrus: Depending on citrus fertilizer label, apply fertilizer every six weeks or as directed. Check for citrus insects; apply ultrafine horticulture oil or insecticidal soap before 10am or after 6pm if insects are detected. Check for diseases; apply fungicide just at new leaf flush or after bloom drop. Maintain 2-3' unmulched area just outside the root ball (which would be 12-18 inches away from the trunk).

Fruit: Apply Azalea fertilizer to blueberry shrubs, at 1/2 pound per 3' of shrub. Granular fertilizer may require about 1/4 inch of water to allow the root to absorb the nutrients. Blueberries can begin fertilization program using acid loving fertilizer in February, April, June, August and October in small amounts. Apply general garden fertilizer to plum trees. Weed as needed.

Flowers: Annuals to plant now include celosia, coleus, coreopsis, dusty miller, geraniums, hollyhocks, impatiens, kalanchoe, lobelias, marigolds, portulacas, rudbeckias, salvia, verbenas, zinnias. Groom to reshape perennials. Prune hard to correct growth problems. Divide overcrowded fall flowering perennials and bulbs. Bulbs to be planted now include achimenes, agapanthus, amaryllis, Asiatic lilies, begonias, blood lily, caladiums, cannas, crinum, dahlia, gladiolus, gloriosa lily and zephyranthes.

Herbs: Anise, basil, bay laurel, borage, caraway, cardamom, chervil, chives, coriander, culantro, cumin, dill, garlic, ginger, horehound, lemon balm, lavender, marjoram, Mexican tarragon, mint, nasturtium, parsley, oregano, rosemary, sage, sesame, and thyme can be planted now.

Roses: Begin watching roses for black spot fungus disease, small black spots on the leaves can quickly worsen. Continue spray program. Water as needed. April 15, apply granular rose fertilizer. Cut and remove spent blooms. Check for spider mites (wash underside of leaves with strong water pressure). Add mulch, 2-3 inches deep (oak leaves, cedar pine straw).

Lawns: Water during early morning when the leaves curl and turn gray-green. Reduce fertilizers and pesticides during seasons of drought. Select a fertilizer with the configuration of 15-0-15 or 16-0-8 which represents nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K) respectively to lawns on April 15. Follow the directions on the label. No "weed and feed products", winterizers, turfbuilders, etc. They generally contain too much nitrogen compared to potassium. Keep mower height at the highest setting for grass type. Apply no more than 1 inch of sand to uneven areas for leveling. Allow grass clippings to stay on the lawn as long as grass is healthy.

Trees: Most older trees and palms are fine and can exist with the seasonal rains. Look for aphid, borer, and scale infestations. Caterpillars may be extra heavy this month. Caterpillars may be extra heavy this month.

Vegetables: This month you can plant snap beans, pole beans, lima beans, cantaloupe, collards, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, kohlrabi, okra, Southern peas, pumpkin, peppers, squash, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, turnips, watermelon, and yams.

Selected from Florida Vegetable Guide by JM Stephens, RA Dunn, G Kidder, D Short, & GW Simone, University of Florida and Month-by-Month Gardening in Florida by Tom MacCubbin





DAY OF THE WEEK DAY MONTH YEAR



WHO

WHAT

WHERE

Post Office historic marker dedicated

Submitted by Suanne Z. Thamm

Reporter – News Analyst

April 8, 2017 2:45 p.m.



Onlookers gather for the marker unveiling ceremony. The Bartram Garden Club provided landscape plantings at the base of the marker.

There were even more visitors to downtown Fernandina Beach before noon on April 8, 2017 as the Princess Amelia Chapter of Colonial Dames XVII



Representative John Rutherford and his District Director Jackie Smith greet members of the West Nassau JROTC, who presented the colors for the ceremony.

Rutherford, who had just returned to Jacksonville from a busy week at the Capitol in Washington, DC, was accompanied by his District Director Jackie Smith. Both Rutherford and Smith appeared to enjoy the opportunity to be



The Old Post Office 1912

The inscription on the marker reads as follows:

U.S. Post Office-Customs House-Courthouse. Dedicated in 1912, this Italian Renaissance Revival building was designed under the direction of Treasury Department architect James Knox Taylor. The interior was custom built to accommodate the building's three original functions as a U.S. Customs House, Courthouse, and Post Office. The building features a symmetrical façade, uniformly-arched windows and doors with terra cotta accents, second floor windows with gabled pediments, decorative balustrades, and small square windows on the top floor. Brick walls faced with stucco rise from a granite base three stories to a tiled, hipped roof with widely extending eaves supported by decorative brackets. The U. S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida met here until the creation of the Middle District in 1962. The building was then used by the Middle District until divisional judicial functions were consolidated in Jacksonville. The building is a notable feature of the city's urban landscape and is the second tallest structure exceeded only by the Nassau County Courthouse's clock tower. In 1973, the building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing resource in the Fernandina Beach Historic District.

A Florida Heritage Site sponsored by the Princess Amelia Chapter National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century and the Florida

Depart of State.

2017



PRINCESS AMELIA CHAPTER COLONIAL DAMES XVII CENTURY



*Post Office 2017
Historical Marker Dedication
Post Office-Customs House-Courthouse
401 Centre Street
Fernandina Beach, FL
08 April 2017
11:00 a.m.*

Program

Introduction.....Sherry Harrell

Color Guard.....West Nassau JROTC

Welcome.....Georgia Murray

Invocation.....Chaplain, Faith Varrasse

Pledge of Allegiance.....Gloria Toomey

Remarks.....President, Dianne Parfitt

*Remarks.....Salvatore Cumella
Historic Preservation Planner
City of Fernandina Beach, FL*

RemarksFL State Senator, Aaron Bean

*Marker Dedication.....Dianne Parfitt, Sherry
Harrell, Georgia Murray*

Retirement of the Colors.....West Nassau JROTC

*Appreciation is extended to the following for
assisting with the dedication and ceremony*

City of Fernandina Beach

Florida Department of State

Members of the Princess Amelia Chapter

Colonial Dames XVII Century

Salvatore Cumella, Historic Preservation

Planner, City of Fernandina Beach

West Nassau JROTC

Bartram Garden Club





The Princess Amelia Chapter
Florida Society
Colonial Dames XVII Century

Cordially Invites
Members of the Bartram Garden Club
to attend the
Historical Marking Dedication
U.S. Post Office
401 Centre Street - Fernandina Beach, FL

Saturday
April 8, 2017
11:00 A.M.

Refreshments following:
Amelia Island Museum of History
233 South Third Street